

Texas PTA believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality education, which will ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

To develop a stronger and more accountable system of education, schools must place priority on student performance and achievement. Schools must focus on what children know and are able to do and be held accountable for ensuring that all children succeed.

Challenging and precise standards must be developed which objectively measure achievement in academic areas to enable students to achieve at the highest levels possible.

Texas PTA believes that valid assessment does not consist of only a single test score, and that at no time should a single test be considered the sole determinant of a student's academic or work future. Further, an assessment system built solely on tests and what can be easily measured has the potential of misleading parents and students.

Texas PTA supports the development of accountability indicators such as equity, competency of teaching staff, physical infrastructure, curriculum class size, instructional methods, existence of tracking, number of higher cost students, dropout rates, and parental involvement, in addition to student testing, to provide a more balanced representation about educational quality in a particular school district. These indicators are important in holding schools accountable and monitoring the quality of education.

Texas PTA believes that the arts, music, literature, dance, drama, and visual arts are central to learning. Infusion of the arts in elementary, secondary, and continuing education curricula is key to the development of students and must be part of a comprehensive education.

*Texas PTA is a statewide grassroots organization made up of parents, teachers and others who have a special interest in children, families and schools. PTA is the largest child-advocacy organization in the state with over 650,000 members.*